

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 EB-11 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00

MC-02 DRC-01 /101 W

----- 122604

O R 121838Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2003

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 7013

PASS DOD AND OSAF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, BE

SUBJECT: REQUEST BY RTB FOR INTERVIEW ON
LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER F-104 REPLACEMENT

REF: OSAFP 062203Z SEP 74; OSAFP 102135Z SEP 74 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED WITH RTB-TV INCLUSION OF INTERVIEW
WITH ASST. SECRETARY OF AIR FORCE SHRONTZ IN ITS
SERIES OF TELECASTS ON F-104 REPLACEMENT. PRODUCER-EDITOR
URBAIN, IN CHARGE OF SERIES, SEEMS GENUINELY ANXIOUS TO HAVE
EACH COMPETITOR PUT HIS BEST FOOT FORWARD AND APVEARIHAT THE ANSWERS
TO SOME QUESTIONS NEED TO
COME FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT RATHER THAN THE CONTRACTORS.
ON READING THE TRANSCRIPT, URBAIN SAID THAT THE ANSWERS WERE
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INTERESTING BUT THAT THE FRENCH AND SWEDES WERE MORE

EXPLICIT THAN THE US ON ECONOMIC OFFSETS. HE ALSO TOLD US THAT THE FRENCH AND SWEDISH PRESENTATIONS WERE MORE COMPREHENSIBLE TO LAYMEN WHO WILL MAKE UP VAST MAJORITY OF THE TV AUDIENCE.

2. URBAIN IS PREPARED TO POSTPONE THE TV SERIES BY A WEEK, TO BEGIN SEPT. 23. HE HOPES THAT THIS WEEK'S DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN MINISTERS OF DEFENSE AND SECRETARY SCHLESINGER WILL OPEN THE WAY FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHRONTZ TO BE MORE CONCRETE A FEW DAYS HENCE.

3. URBAIN WOULD LIKE TO GO TO WASHINGTON TO RE-RECORD THE INTERVIEW WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHRONTZ. EMBASSY FEELS THIS REPRESENTS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO MAKE THE BEST POSSIBLE CASE. INTERVIEWS BY RTB'S OWN MAN WOULD HAVE FAR GREATER CREDIBILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS HERE THAN STAGED FILM. URBAIN COULD DEPART SUNDAY OR MONDAY, SEPT. 15 OR 16, WITH ADDITIONAL CREW OF TWO, AND REMAIN THREE DAYS.

4. URBAIN AND CREW COULD, IF YOU APPROVE, DEPART BRUSSELS BY DOD PLANE RETURNING MINISTERS OF DEFENSE FROM U.S. ADDITIONAL COSTS -- OR EVEN ALL COSTS -- COULD BE COVERED BY CONTRACTORS. (LOCAL NORTHROP REP HAS ALREADY AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT. EMBASSY ANTICIPATES THAT GENERAL DYNAMICS WILL ALSO AGREE.

5. ADVISE URGENTLY REGARDING SUGGESTIONS IN PARAS 3 AND 4 ABOVE. FIRESTONE

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